

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE:PC

APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:TAHALSTED

-----076160 212301Z /66

P 212036Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MARCH 21 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. GEORGE WILSON OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT "RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES HAVE SERVED NOTICE THAT THEY INTEND TO BLOW LID OFF PRESIDENT CARTER'S NEW DEFENSE BUDGET BY ADDING SOME TWO BILLION DOLLARS TO IT, AND HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS CHAIRMAN (GEORGE MAHON) DOUBTS HE CAN STOP IT." MAHON SAID MX MISSILE WAS "ONE OF CANDIDATES" FOR EXPECTED CONGRESSIONAL ADDITIONS. "CARTER, WHO HAS VOWED TO CUT DEFENSE BUDGET, MAY HAVE HELPED PAVE WAY FOR INCREASE WITH HIS HARD-HITTING DEFENSE SPEECH LAST WEEK IN WINSTON SALEM, NC.," WILSON SAID.

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2. TERENCE SMITH OF NEW YORK TIMES, SAID BRZEZINSKI, IN DRAWING UP LIST OF PLUSES AND MINUSES OF HIS FIRST YEAR AS CARTER'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, CITED AMONG HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS: "HELPED STIFFEN BACK OF ADMINISTRATION." SMITH SAID BRZEZINSKI HAS PLAYED THIS ROLE "WITH DRIVE AND DETERMINATION" AND IT IS GAINING HIM REPUTATION OF HARD-

LINER IN FOREIGN POLICY...GIVEN HOMOGENIZED MANNER IN WHICH FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS ARE REACHED AFTER DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, CIA AND OTHER AGENCIES HAD THEIR WAY, IT IS HARD TO PINPOINT MR. BRZEZINSKI'S IMPACT ON SPECIFIC ISSUE. HIS MAIN CONTRIBUTION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN IN PROVIDING FRAMEWORK FOR FOREIGN POLICY...ALTHOUGH NONE OF POLICY INITIATIVES OF MR. CARTER'S FIRST YEAR BEARS AN UNMISTAKABLE BRZEZINSKI LABEL, HIS HAND SEEMS TO BE EVIDENT IN PORTIONS OF ALL OF THEM...ON PANAMA, MR. BRZEZINSKI IS CREDITED WITH STRESSING TO MR. CARTER TACTICAL ADVANTAGES OF AN EARLY CONGRESSIONAL VICTORY THAT MIGHT CLEAR WAY FOR OTHER, MORE THORNY ISSUES SUCH AS RATIFICATION OF NEW TREATY WITH SOVIET UNION ON LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMS.... OTHER ISSUES LIKE STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED MORE CLOSELY BY OTHER SECURITY AIDES, BUT THEY ALSO CREDIT MR. BRZEZINSKI WITH PROPOSING COMPROMISES THAT WERE EVENTUALLY INCORPORATED IN LATEST AMERICAN OFFER." SMITH COMMENTED THAT "NEVER SHRINKING VIOLET," BRZEZINSKI MADE COLUMN OF PLUSES NEARLY TWICE AS LONG AS MINUSES. HE SAID BRZEZINSKI'S LIST OF SHORTCOMINGS CONCEDES THAT HE COORDINATED POORLY AT OUTSET WITH PRESIDENT'S DOMESTIC ADVISERS.

3. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST MARQUIS CHILDS, WRITING IN WASHINGTON POST, DESCRIBED SECRETARY VANCE AS "MAN WITH WIDE KNOWLEDGE AND CALM CONFIDENCE." HE SAID "VANCE BELIEVES SALT TWO AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED WITH SOVIET UNCLASSIFIED

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UNION PERHAPS AS EARLY AS MIDYEAR." CHILDS OBSERVED THAT VANCE'S CONVICTION "DIFFERS FROM VIEW" OF BRZEZINSKI, WHO "HOLDS THAT AMERICAN SIDE HAS MADE ALL CONCESSIONS THAT ARE POSSIBLE AND THAT MOVEMENT MUST COME FROM MOSCOW IF THERE IS TO BE MOVEMENT." NOTING THAT VANCE OPPOSES LINKING ARMS NEGOTIATIONS WITH RUSSIAN INTERVENTION IN HORN OF AFRICA, CHILDS SAID "VANCE PUTS AN ARMS CONTROL TREATY WITH IRONCLAD PROVISIONS FOR VERIFICATION ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE AS ONE MORE STEP TOWARD SLOWING NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. WHILE IT MAY NOT GO BEFORE PRESENT SESSION OF CONGRESS, IT WOULD BE PUT BEFORE SENATE IN 1979; LESS CHANCY, SINCE THAT IS NOT AN ELECTION YEAR...WHILE VANCE WEIGHS OBSTACLES IN WAY OF AN AGREEMENT, HE IS UNDAUNTED BY THEM. HE IS DISMAYED AT TIMES BY TACTICS USED ON CAPITOL HILL, AS WHEN SENATE STAFFER LEAKED TESTIMONY HE HAD GIVEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO TRY TO DISCREDIT HIS AIMS. BUT WITH HIS LOW PROFILE, UNEMOTIONAL STYLE, HE PLOWS AHEAD TOWARD GOAL HE BELIEVES IS IMPERATIVE FOR SURVIVAL OF HUMANITY."

4. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON, WRITING IN WASHINGTON POST, SAID "CONTRARY TO ADVICE PRESIDENT CARTER HAS BEEN GETTING FROM STATE DEPARTMENT, THERE'S NO REASON FOR

HIM TO SOFTEN HIS STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN SOVIET UNION. SPARING SOVIET FEELINGS SHOULD HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT. THESE ARE CONCLUSIONS OF NSC,

WHICH CONDUCTED SECRET STUDY FOR PRESIDENT LAST YEAR. STUDY, SUMMARIZED IN PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM NO. 28, DECLARES, "THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY HAS AFFECTED SOVIET BARGAINING POSITIONS IN IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS, EVEN IF ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING NEGOTIATIONS IS TENSE." ANDERSON NOTED THAT SOVIETS HAVE STRUCK BACK WITH THEIR OWN CAMPAIGN AGAINST NEUTRON BOMB. "APPARENTLY, KREMLIN REGARDS HUMAN RIGHTS AND NEUTRON BOMB RHETORIC AS PROPAGANDA WARFARE, HAVING LITTLE TO DO WITH SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS." CARTER WAS TOLD, ANDERSON
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REPORTED, THAT SOVIET LEADERS ARE TOO REALISTIC TO ABANDON ADVANTAGES THEY GAIN THROUGH DISARMAMENT TREATY. PRM-28 COMMENTS, HE REPORTED, "OUR SUBSTANTIVE POSITION ON ARMS CONTROL HAS AND WILL LIKELY CONTINUE TO DETERMINE SOVIET RESPONSE ON THIS CRITICAL ISSUE. SIMILARLY, WE BELIEVE THAT SOVIET UNION WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE ITS PERCEIVED INTERESTS IN ARMS CONTROL, TRADE, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND OTHER AREAS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, REGARDLESS OF OUR ADVOCACY OF HUMAN RIGHTS. INEVITABLE STRAIN OF MASSIVE ARMS RACE, NEED TO TAKE INCREASING CONSUMER DEMANDS INTO ACCOUNT AND POTENTIAL FOR UNREST IN EASTERN EUROPE MEAN SOVIET UNION CANNOT EASILY PULL AWAY FROM...NEGOTIATIONS, TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFER AGREEMENTS OR COMMERCIAL CREDIT AGREEMENTS." VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, PRESS COMMENTS, BUDGETS, PRESIDENT, MISSILES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE072523
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JPMPOPE:PC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780125-0181
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780341/aaaabion.tel
Line Count: 150
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 452661c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3251909
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCH 21 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL INTEREST LONDON FOR AMB/EX
TAGS: PARM, SOPN, US, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: GENEVA USSALTTWO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/452661c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014